



ST MICHAEL AT BOWES CE JUNIOR SCHOOL THE GOVERNING BODY

Many parents do not understand the role of the Governing Body. We realise that there needs to be more communication between the Governing Body and parents. This leaflet has been produced to help you to understand what we do.

The roles and responsibilities of Governing Bodies are very complicated and are covered by several Education Acts. This is a summary of the main points as they affect St Michael at Bowes

WHAT IS A GOVERNING BODY?

The Governing Body is a legally constituted body made up of volunteers with an interest in promoting standards in education. The Governing Body has a range of duties and powers given under the various Education Acts. In broad terms it has the responsibility for “the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of education achievement”.

WHAT DOES THE GOVERNING BODY DO?

The Governing Body’s core strategic role is to

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The principal mechanism for doing this is the School Improvement Plan, drawn up by the Governing Body in conjunction with the Head Teacher. It is monitored and reviewed regularly.

Particular responsibilities include:

- managing the school’s budget
- making sure the curriculum is balanced
- the appointment of staff
- setting an appraisal policy for all staff

It also has responsibilities with regard to pupils with Special Educational Needs, determining admissions to the school, and the maintenance of the school buildings.

The Governing Body is also consulted on wider ranging issues such as the services provided by the local authority, workforce remodelling.

HOW DOES THE GOVERNING BODY DO THIS?

The full Governing Body meets once a month (except June) throughout the academic year. The Head Teacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school, but consults with the Governing Body. The Governing Body will offer support and constructive advice. The Head Teacher reports back to the Governing Body at every meeting, as to how the school is performing and meeting its objectives.

The Governing Body also hears appeals concerning admissions, and staff and pupil discipline, and hears complaints against the school if these cannot be resolved by the Headteacher.

WHO IS ON THE GOVERNING BODY?

St Michael at Bowes has 12 members on its Governing Body. Because it is a Church of England school, some governors represent the interest of the church. These are called Foundation governors. Others represent the interests of the local community. These are called Representative Governors.

There are 7 Foundation governors:

- 2 parish priests, Fr. Engin and Reverend Mark Jones-Parry
- 2 governors, Jean Jakobson (Chair), Lawrence DeSouza (Vice-chair) they have been appointed by the London Diocesan Board for Schools
- 1 vacancy for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Cuthbert's Church
- 1 East Haringey Deanery Synod
- 1 Foundation governor

There are 5 Representative Governors:

- 1 Head Teacher, Maria Jay, is automatically a member
- 1 governor, MP Bambos Charalambous appointed by the local authority
- 1 governor, Mary Gavriel, has been elected to represent the staff
- 2 parents, Lauren Harris and Daniela Atamnia elected as governors by the other parents

(Debbie Butcher – DHT is an associate governor. She is not counted in the overall number).

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHAT GOVERNORS HAVE DISCUSSED?

You may ask to see any papers discussed at the meeting. Minutes are also available on the

school website. If you want to know more about anything that has been discussed, please contact Jean Jakobson, Chair of Governors, care of the school.

WHO CAN BE A GOVERNOR?

Because Governors are often visiting the school, there are a few restrictions to protect the children, but generally anyone over the age of 18 can be a governor. We have two vacancies at the moment; one appointment is made through Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Cuthbert's Church and one through St Michael at Bowes Church and the other is by parent elections.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, please inform the school and your name will be put forward for consideration as soon as a vacancy arises.

The main qualification is an interest in education and an enthusiasm for improving standards in schools. While people with experience are welcome, it is not an essential qualification – there are many training courses available on the roles and responsibilities of governors.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE GOVERNORS?

If you have any concerns you wish to bring to the attention of the Governors, the easiest way is to speak to a parent governor, who is usually around in the playground before or after school. St Michael at Bowes is fortunate in that besides its parent governors, some of our other governors are also parents who can often be seen in school. There are photographs of all the governors on a notice board in school to help you to recognise them.

Alternatively, you can write to Jean Jakobson Chair of Governors, care of the school. The office will make sure any letters get passed on.

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